UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

CLASS OF

WINTER COMMENCEMENT

DECEMBER 20, 2025

HAAS PAVILION

To the inspiring **CLASS OF 2025**, congratulations!

Your journey at Berkeley has been one of intellectual exploration, personal growth, and unwavering commitment to a better future. As you step forward, carry the innovative spirit of Berkeley with you, embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Your insight, resourcefulness, and passion will shape a world of extraordinary possibilities. I am immensely proud of all you have accomplished.

— Chancellor Richard K. Lyons '82

PROGRAM

WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
ALFRED DAY
ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT & BELONGING

GRADUATE PROCESSION

NATIONAL ANTHEM
UC JAZZ CHOIR

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT POET
DYLAN SACKS '25
VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLASS COUNCIL

STUDENT POET
IVAN ACEVEDO '25

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT ADDRESS
DYLAN SACKS '25
VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLASS COUNCIL

STUDENT ADDRESS
JAMES ANTONIO MCCLOY '25

INTRODUCTION OF CHANCELLOR RICHARD K. LYONS
SHAYE GONOR '25
PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLASS COUNCIL

HAAS INTERNATIONAL AWARD PRESENTATION
RICHARD K. LYONS '82
CHANCELLOR

THE ELISE AND WALTER A. HAAS INTERNATIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT
SAN LING PH.D. '90

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
ARAVIND SRINIVAS PH.D. '21

CONFERRING OF DEGREES
RICHARD K. LYONS '82
CHANCELLOR

CLOSING REMARKS
ALFRED DAY
ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR OF STUDENT SUPPORT & BELONGING

HAIL TO CALIFORNIA
UC JAZZ CHOIR

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ARAVIND SRINIVAS PH.D. '21

Aravind Srinivas is the co-founder and CEO of Perplexity AI, an AI-powered answer engine that combines real-time web search with artificial intelligence to provide direct, sourced answers to user questions. Founded in 2022, Perplexity has grown rapidly, attracting millions of users and positioning itself as an alternative to traditional search engines.

Born in Chennai, India, Aravind's path to AI leadership was anything but conventional. While studying electrical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, he found himself captivated by machine learning, a passion sparked by cross-departmental collaboration and the mentorship of pioneering faculty. This willingness to forge new paths would become a defining characteristic of his career.

After earning his Ph.D. in computer science from UC Berkeley, Aravind honed his expertise at the forefront of AI research through positions at OpenAI, Google, and DeepMind. In 2022, he channeled these experiences into co-founding Perplexity AI, building what he describes as "the world's first generally available conversational answer engine." The company has attracted significant investment from prominent backers, and its rapid growth has made Aravind a leading voice in discussions about the future of search and artificial intelligence.

Aravind's insights on AI, entrepreneurship, and innovation have been featured across major media platforms, and he has been recognized among TIME's 100 most influential figures in AI. He combines deep technical expertise with an entrepreneur's instinct for challenging convention.

Aravind holds a dual degree in electrical engineering from IIT Madras and a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of California, Berkeley. He believes that innovation comes from the courage to forge new paths, and that the future of AI lies in making powerful technology work for people in meaningful, accessible ways.

ELISE AND WALTER A. HAAS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

SAN LING PH.D. ’90

Dr. San Ling, a passionate academic and visionary leader, began his career at the National University of Singapore. He joined the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, in 2005 as the founding head of the Division of Mathematical Sciences in the School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences (SPMS). After stints as chair, SPMS, and dean, College of Science, Dr. Ling became NTU’s provost in 2018, till June 2025. He was also acting president between December 2022 and April 2023. Dr. Ling was concurrently the chief scientific advisor at Singapore’s National Research Foundation from August 2022 to July 2024, providing advice for the development and implementation of Singapore’s Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) plans.

As a firm believer in talent attraction and development, innovation in education, and wellbeing, Dr. Ling helped steer NTU Singapore in its formative years to become one of the world’s fastest-rising top-ranked universities.

Dr. Ling played a key role in establishing the Graduate College, Asian School of the Environment, and School of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering & Biotechnology, at NTU, and introduced the Interdisciplinary Collaborative Core Curriculum and mandatory internships for all undergraduate students. He also set up the Institute for Pedagogical Innovation, Research and Excellence (InsPIRE) to promote innovation in teaching and learning, and the University Wellbeing Office to improve wellbeing for students and employees.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Ling’s decisive leadership helped to ensure the safety of the campus community and to provide financial relief to students.

Extending his passion and expertise beyond Singapore, Dr. Ling recently assumed a part-time role at VinUniversity – a very new university – in Vietnam, to help shape talent development, research and education.

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Amy Zhang
Duoling Zhang
Hao Zhang
Henley Zhang
Jimmy Zhang
Shanying Zhang
Wen Zhang
Xiaoyue Zhang
Chenwei Zhao
Joanne Zhao
Tony Zhao
Haoyang Zhong
Henry Zhou
Yiheng Zhou
Jingyi Zhou
Matthew Zhou
Peiqi Zhou
Carly Wingyin Zhu
Yuanjue(Persy) Zhu
JiangRuoHan Zou

The Class of 2025 banner was designed by Kaashvi Agnihotri '25

HAIL TO CALIFORNIA

Hail to California,
Alma Mater dear;
Sing the joyful chorus,
Sound it far and near.
Rallying round her banner,
We will never fail;
California, Alma Mater,
Hail! Hail! Hail!

Hail to California,
Queen in whom we're blest;
Spreading light and goodness
Over all the West.
Fighting 'neath her standard,
We shall sure prevail;
California, Alma Mater,
Hail! Hail! Hail!

The Cal alma mater was written by Clinton R. "Brick" Morse, Class of 1896.

Scan this QR code to join the live text stream of Commencement and follow along in your preferred language.

REGALIA

Here's a quick primer for decoding all of the academic regalia you'll see today.

THE CAP · Doctoral candidates wear velvet tams while bachelor's and master's candidates wear black mortar boards. All wear a single tassel.

THE MACE · A campus leader leads the faculty procession and carries the ceremonial Berkeley mace, a tall staff that symbolizes UC Berkeley's authority to confer degrees. It is topped by a bear's head carved out of wood salvaged during a renovation of South Hall, the oldest building on Berkeley's campus, built in 1873. The provost also places the mace on the podium during the ceremony.

THE GOWN · Bachelor's candidates wear a traditional black gown with long, pointed sleeves. Master's candidates wear a long black gown with oblong sleeves that are arched at the wrist and square cut at the bottom. Doctoral candidates wear a long, velvet-trimmed gown in black or another color with bell-shaped sleeves that have three velvet panels or chevrons on each arm.

CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL · Chancellor Richard K. Lyons wears the Chancellor's Medal, which is imprinted with the university seal.

THE HOOD · Master's and doctoral candidates wear velvet-lined hoods hanging from the back. The color of the hood's lining represents the institution that conferred the degree, while the velvet trim represents the field of study.

UC BERKELEY COLORS · UC Berkeley regalia is designed in the official University of California colors established by students in 1873. Berkeley Blue ■ symbolizes the ocean and local wildflowers. It is based on Yale Blue, since Yale University graduates were among the university's founders and early leaders. California Gold ■ was selected to represent the mining heritage of the "Golden State" of California and our state flower, the golden poppy.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2025!

TAG YOUR PHOTOS WITH #CalGrad on social media, or upload them to commencement.berkeley.edu/social-media.

HOW DO I STAY CONNECTED TO UC BERKELEY?

STAY CONNECTED: Navigate your next step with support from fellow Bears using My Berkeley at my.berkeley.edu. The My Berkeley Alumni Portal helps you find mentors, grow your career, and stay engaged with the Cal community.

KEEP YOUR EMAIL: Every new graduate will be auto-enrolled into the Alumni Email Service so you can keep using your @berkeley.edu email after graduation. To keep your account active, log in with your CalNet ID at least once every 6 months and monitor your storage.

CAA MEMBERSHIP: The Cal Alumni Association is here to keep you connected to Berkeley for life. Learn more at alumni.berkeley.edu/2025grad.

ALUMNI EVENTS: Check out other ways to engage with your UC Berkeley community all year long at homecoming.berkeley.edu/get-involved.

Download the Cal Bears Stickers iOS app at gobears.me/CalBearsStickers

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY
LET THERE BE LIGHT
1868